

worse. I urge my colleagues to support the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Obey amendment.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR
EARL ABEL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Doctor Earl Abel, a remarkable and compassionate leader whose legacy has touched so many Kansas Citizens. After an extended illness, Reverend Abel passed on May 17, 2005. His is a deep loss felt by his family, his church congregation, the greater Kansas City community, the State of Missouri, and most assuredly, our nation. Reverend Abel will long be remembered for his social activism and advocacy on behalf of those individuals suffering from poverty, homelessness, and injustice. He fought for the common person and his influence was far reaching, both inside and outside the African American community.

His calling brought him to organize and pastor the Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ in January, 1959. His initial congregation consisted of 11 members. His present church membership is in excess of 2,000 members.

In this era where the term "faith based initiative" is a buzzword on Capitol Hill, Reverend Abel was one who took this phrase to heart, and applied it in the Kansas City community long before it was a politically popular phrase. It has been said that economic development is the last frontier of the civil rights movement. Reverend Abel was quoted in the Kansas City Star, our local newspaper, as saying, "The black churches put ourselves in this role, because we felt the community needed development, and there was nobody to develop it. We're a church, and part of our mission is to try to provide what the community needs." In providing the community's needs, he championed the building of Palestine Camp, a \$5 million youth summer camp. He also built two housing complexes which house 118 senior citizens called Palestine Gardens, and a \$2.5 million activity center.

Rev. Abel attended the University of Kansas and received his Doctorate of Divinity from Western Baptist Bible College. He was appointed by Governor Mel Carnahan to the Appellate Judicial Commission at a time when there were few minority or women representatives amongst the 39 judges on the Missouri Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. There are now nine female judges and five African American judges on those benches, including the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, Justice Ronnie L. White.

In 2002, he was vice chairman of a successful public safety sales tax campaign, which provided for new and renovated police facilities, replacement of aging ambulances, new tornado sirens, and other public safety capital improvements. In May 2003, Reverend Abel was appointed to the advisory board for U. S. Senator CHRISTOPHER BOND's "Kansas City Engine for Economic Development Fund." He most recently served as Chaplain for the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and

has served as past President of the Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City, the Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention, and was twice appointed to the Kansas City Human Relations Commission.

He served on Boards of the Heart of America United Way, the Local Investment Commission (LINC), Douglass National Bank, and was an Early Childhood Commission member for the Missouri Department of Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Hazel Lair Abel, his children, Carol and Rick, his five grandchildren, and his many relatives and friends. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family for sharing this great man with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. He was an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MARGARET SMITH, RETIRED
SENATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of the Honorable Margaret Smith who made her heavenly transition on Monday, May 16, 2005. Senator Smith served with distinction in the Illinois General Assembly for 22 years until her retirement in December, 2002.

Prior to her 20-year tenure in the Illinois State Senate, Senator Smith served one term as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives. Senator Smith served as the chairwoman of the influential Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, where she had the distinction of being the first female State Senator in the United States to serve as the chairperson of the same committee chaired previously by her spouse, the late Senator Fred J. Smith.

Senator Smith has been recognized for her sponsorship and support of legislation on health care and women's issues, including requiring Illinois to cover the cost of mammograms for poor women, requiring insurance companies to cover mammograms, protecting senior citizens in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, improving the child immunization system in Illinois; and accordingly received the coveted "Legislator of the Year Award" from every major public health organization in Illinois, including the Illinois Nurses' Association, the Illinois Health Care Association, and the Illinois Hospital and Health Systems Association.

A recognized national leader, Senator Smith served as a member of the National Conference of Black State Legislators, the Midwestern Legislative Conference, and the National Conference of State Legislators, NCSL, serving as the chairperson of the NCSL's Health and Human Services Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all those whose lives were touched by this gentle stateswoman, the Honorable Margaret Smith, to always remember to look to the hills from which comes all of their help. Senator Smith

was an anchor within the Illinois governmental and political landscape. I am truly blessed to have known, worked with and supported her. I am honored to pay tribute to this outstanding public servant and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING CARL BROWN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it's not every day that I get the opportunity to recognize someone who has demonstrated tremendous dedication to public service. But today I have just such an opportunity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Carl Brown, Tennessee's Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner, for being one of those people who makes government work better.

Carl has served our State for more than 4 decades and he's done a magnificent job. The thousands of disabled Tennesseans he has helped over the years know exactly what I mean when I say that Carl has lived to serve others. He has always known that there are few higher callings in life than helping those in need. And we are grateful for him.

While I'm thankful for Carl and his service to our State, we will miss his work at the Department of Human Services when he retires this May 2005.

All of us in Tennessee wish Carl and his wife, Mary Frances, a wonderful retirement with their children and grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION OF LANDLESS
ISSUE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation which will correct an injustice to five Southeast Alaska Native villages.

For over 25 years, the Southeast Alaska Villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell have been denied fundamental rights and compensation afforded other Alaska Native villages under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). ANCSA fails to recognize these five villages for the purposes of establishing urban or village corporations under the Act. Consequently, the Alaska Natives from these villages have been denied the rights afforded other Alaska Natives to proper settlement under ANCSA of historical land claims.

A significant number of Natives enrolled at each of the villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell during the original ANCSA process, but they were denied the opportunity to establish village or urban corporations in 1971. Consequently, although Natives enrolled to these villages during the ANCSA process and did become at-large shareholders in the regional corporation for